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SECURITY INFORMATION

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# INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY **Indochina**

DATE DISTR. **8 May 1952**

SUBJECT **Conditions in Interzone IV of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam**

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PLACE ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. An individual working for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) in their controlled zone receives an equivalent of 60 kilograms of rice monthly. This would include sustenance for a wife and two children. Half of this amount is paid in rice and the other half in Ho Chi Minh piasters. Since the payment in piasters is figured at the current rate, it is necessary for the person to purchase needed foodstuffs immediately because prices rise daily. Doctors and pharmacists have a comparatively easy time because in addition to their salaries they give free consultations.<sup>1</sup>
2. In the field of medicine there are many surgical instruments of Chinese manufacture available; but these are of poor quality.<sup>2</sup> The only medicine furnished by the Chinese is kinacrine, an anti-malaria drug. It bears no manufacturers label, and the DRV claims that it comes from Eastern Europe.
3. Other aid from the Chinese is principally in the form of military assistance and advice. Very few technical instruments are in evidence. Chinese advisors represent themselves as "comrades" from the Chinese Communist Party; only rarely do they say they are official representatives of the Government of China. These advisors are friendly with the members of the local Communist Party and avoid contact with the population.
4. As far as the morale of the people is concerned, they are completely exhausted and discontented, but their discontent is carefully hidden. However, since the victory at Hoa Binh, the morale of the troops has risen considerably.

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1.  Comment. Presumably the practitioners receive gifts for these services.

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